

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The foregoing amendments and these remarks are in response to the final Office Action, dated July 26, 2006. At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-12 and 15-19 were pending in the present application. The Office Action objected to the abstract of the disclosure as well as claims 1-6, 8-12, 15 and 17-19. Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 15 and 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 7 and 16 were indicated as being allowed, and claims 5 and 10-12 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Each of these points will be addressed in turn below.

Objection to the Specification

In light of the amendment to the specification above, it is respectfully submitted that the objections to the specification have been satisfactorily addressed.

Objections to the Claims

In light of the current amendment to claim 5, as set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 5 and 10-12 are no longer objectionable. The objections to claims 1-6, 8-9, 15 and 17-19 are moot because those claims have been canceled.

Art-Based Rejections

While Applicant still disagrees with the rejections, Applicant has canceled claims 1-4, 6-9, 15 and 17-19 in an effort to advance the prosecution. Applicant reserves the right to pursue these claims in one or more continuation applications. In light of these claim cancellations, it is respectfully submitted that the art-based rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a) are moot.

Appln. No. 10/706,180
Amendment dated January 26, 2006
Reply to Final Office Action dated July 26, 2005

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 7 and 16 are allowed and that claims 5 and 10-12 contain allowable subject matter.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of pending claims 5, 7, 10-12 and 16. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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